

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A contents copying management system configured by connecting a contents copying apparatus and a copying management device by a network, said contents copying apparatus comprising:

a controller configured to acquire medium identifying information specific to and characterizing a recorded-contents-carrying [[an]] original recording medium;

the controller further configured to acquire apparatus identifying information specific to and indicating said contents copying apparatus itself;

a first transmission/reception section that transmits said medium identifying information and said apparatus identifying information to said copying management device as copying-related combination information;

the first transmission/reception section further receives copying authorizing information generated by said copying management device on the basis of said copying-related combination information at the time of accessing said copying management device, after transmitting said medium identifying information; and

the controller further configured to control an operation of copying said contents in response to said copying authorizing information;

said copying management device comprising:

a database that registers and stores said copying-related combination information received from said contents copying apparatus in advance;

a control section configured to compare said copying-related combination information received at the time of access by said contents copying apparatus with said copying-related combination information registered in said database in advance, that judges agreement or disagreement of said combinations of medium identifying

information and apparatus identifying information, and that generates copying authorizing information for authorizing an operation of copying the contents in response to agreement of said combinations but that generates copying non-authorizing information for not authorizing any operation of copying the contents in response to disagreement of said combinations; and

a second transmission/reception section that transmits said copying authorizing information to said contents copying apparatus.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said controller is further configured to control reproduction of said copied contents according to said copying authorizing information.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein said medium identifying information is a characteristic of the printing surface of said recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium produced at the time of printing, information of the signals on the recording surface of said recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium, the signals recorded on the recording surface, or a combination of one or more of: the characteristic of the printing surface of said recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium produced at the time of printing, information of the signals on the recording surface of said recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium, or the signals recorded on the recording surface.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein

said controller is further configured to control copying of said contents according to said copying authorizing information and displays a predetermined warning image on a display when copying is not authorized according to said copying authorizing information.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A system according to claim 1, wherein

said database registers said medium identifying information according to ~~[[the]]~~ a title of said contents on a title by title basis when registering and storing in advance said copying-related combination information received from said contents copying apparatus, and

said control section is further configured to select said medium identifying information to be compared according to said title when it compares said copying-related combination information received at the time of said access of said contents copying apparatus with said copying-related combination information registered in advance in said database.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein

said controller is further configured to generate the contents to be copied, convoluting said medium identifying information and said apparatus identifying information into said contents, when copying said contents, and to control reproduction of said copied contents by taking out the medium identifying information and the apparatus identifying information from said copied contents, to transmit the combined information to said copying management device by said first transmission/reaction section and to receive said copying authorizing information generated by said copying management device on the basis of the combination of the medium identifying information and apparatus identifying information when reproducing said copied contents.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein

said controller is further configured to generate the contents to be copied, convoluting said medium identifying information and said apparatus identifying information into said contents, and to additionally store the medium identifying information and the apparatus identifying information in said recording/reproducing apparatus when carrying out an operation of copying said contents and to confirm if said copied contents are authorized to be copied according to the copying authorizing information obtained by taking out the medium identifying information and the apparatus identifying information, to transmit the combined information to said copying management device by said first transmission/reception section to receive said copying authorizing information generated by said copying management device on the basis of the combination of the medium identifying information and apparatus identifying information when the copied contents are not reproduced.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A system according to claim 1, wherein

said controller is further configured to encode the contents, using said apparatus identifying information as key, when carrying out an operation of copying said contents.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A copying management device comprising:

a transmission/reception section that receives medium identifying information specific to and characterizing a recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium and apparatus identifying information specific to and indicating a contents copying apparatus itself from said contents copying apparatus as copying-related combination information at the time of copying said contents by a network;

a database that registers and stores said copying-related combination information received from said contents copying apparatus in advance;

a control section configured to compare said copying-related combination information received at the time of access by said contents copying apparatus with said copying-related combination information registered in said database in advance, to determine agreement or disagreement of said combinations of medium identifying information and apparatus identifying information, to generate copying authorizing information for authorizing an operation of copying the contents in response to agreement of said combinations but to generate copying non-authorizing information for not authorizing any operation of copying the contents in response to disagreement of said combinations; and

the transmission/reception section further transmits said copying authorizing information to said contents copying apparatus, wherein

said copying management device controlling copying of said contents by said contents copying apparatus from said recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium according to said copying authorizing information with respect to each recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): A copying management method comprising:

a copying-related combination information receiving operation receiving medium identifying information specific to and characterizing a recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium and apparatus identifying information specific to and indicating a contents copying apparatus itself from said contents copying apparatus as copying-related combination information at the time of copying said contents by a network;

registering and storing said copying-related combination information received from said contents copying apparatus in advance;

a copying authorizing information generating operation comparing said copying-related combination information received at the time of access by said contents copying

apparatus with said copying-related combination information registered in said memory step in advance, determining agreement or disagreement of said combinations of medium identifying information and apparatus identifying information, generating copying authorizing information for authorizing an operation of copying the contents in response to agreement of said combinations but generating copying non-authorizing information for not authorizing any operation of copying the contents in response to disagreement of said combinations; and

a copying authorizing information transmitting operation transmitting said copying authorizing information to said contents copying apparatus, wherein

said copying management method controlling copying of said contents by said contents copying apparatus from said recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium according to said copying authorizing information with respect to each recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A contents copying apparatus comprising:

a controller configured to acquire medium identifying information specific to and characterizing a recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium;

the controller further configured to acquire apparatus identifying information specific to and indicating said contents copying apparatus itself;

a transmission/reception section configured to transmit said medium identifying information and said apparatus identifying information to a copying management device connected to it by a network as copying-related combination information;

the transmission/reception section further configured to receive copying authorizing information generated after registration of said copying-related combination information by said copying management device by comparing said copying-related combination

information transmitted at the time of a new access to said copying management device, after the transmitting said medium identifying information, with said copying-related combination information registered in advance, and to authorize an operation of copying the contents in response to agreement of said combinations of medium identifying information and apparatus identifying information but not authorizing any operation of copying the contents in response to disagreement of said combinations from said copying management device; and

the controller further configured to control the operation of copying according to said copying authorizing information.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): A contents copying method comprising:

a medium identifying information acquiring operation acquiring medium identifying information specific to and characterizing a recorded-contents-carrying original recording medium;

an apparatus identifying information acquiring operation acquiring apparatus identifying information specific to and indicating said contents copying apparatus itself;

a copying-related combination information transmitting operation transmitting said medium identifying information and said apparatus identifying information to a copying management device connected to it by a network as copying-related combination information at the time of copying said contents;

a receiving operation receiving copying authorizing information generated after registration of said copying-related combination information by said copying management device by comparing said copying-related combination information transmitted at the time of a new access to said copying management device with said copying-related combination information registered in advance, and authorizing an operation of copying the contents in response to agreement of said combinations of medium identifying information and apparatus

identifying information but not authorizing any operation of copying the contents in response to disagreement of said combinations from said copying management device; and

a control operation controlling the operation of copying said contents according to said copying authorizing information.